A NEW ALOE FROM ANGOLA

G. W. Reynolds

(With Plates V and VI)

Aloe gossweileri Reynolds. Species nova, affinis *A. palmiformis* Bak. inflorescentia ramosiora, racemis brevioribus obliquis ad horizontalis, floribus subsecundis differt.

Planta frutescens, e basi ramosa, caulibus 1—1·5 m. longis, 3—4 cm. diam.

Folia c. 16, rosulata, ensiformia, saepe 30 cm. longa, 5 cm. lata, patentia vel recurvula; *supra* viridia, leviter canaliculata, immaculata; *subtus* convexa; marginibus dentibus deltoideis 3—4 mm. longis, 15 mm. distantibus armata.

Inflorescentia paniculata, 6—8-ramosa, c. 40 cm. alta. *Pedunculus* basi plano-convexus, 10—12 mm. latus, infra medio divaricate ramosus. *Racemi* 10—15 cm. longi, 5—6 cm. lati, floribus subsecundis. *Bracteae* parvae, ovato-acutae, 3 mm. longae, 2 mm. latae, subscariosae, 3—5-nervatae. *Pedicelli* 10 mm. longi. *Perianthium* coccineum, 30 mm. longum, basi levissime rotundum, circa ovarium 6 mm. diam., hinc levissime constrictum deinde fauces versus levissime ampliatum; *segmenta exteriora* per 10—12 mm. libera, obscure 3-nervata. *Antherae* 1—2 mm. exsertae. *Stigma* demum 2—3 mm. exsertum. *Ovarium* pallide brunneum, 4 mm. longum, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diametro. (Plate V).

Hab. Angola: Benguela Prov., Cuanza Sul, Seles, 7 miles S.E. of Vila Nova de Seles, c. 11° 28′ S., 14° 24′ E., on rocks at 3,400 ft. alt., fl. 15 July, 1961, at Mbabane, Swaziland, Reynolds 9760 holotype (PRE); Vila Nova de Seles, alt. 1,100 m., March, 1930, Gossweiler 13313 (LUA).—A note on this sheet reads, "Stem erect, undivided, up to 2 m. high. Corolla copper-red, lasting only two days. The photo no. 73 of the Carta Fitogeografica de Angola represents this species in its rocky more exposed situation at Nova Seles. Flowers in March."

Our new species is named after the late Mr. John Gossweiler who collected very extensively throughout Angola, and who discovered it in 1930. Gossweiler's *Carta Fitogeográfia de Angola* (1939) is an outstanding contribution to the botany of Angola. Photo 73, at p. 204, depicts a group of shrubby Aloes, without flowers, with the legend "Aloe (angolensis?)" but it is not that species.

In July, 1959, Dr. N. R. Smuts and I found considerable numbers of *A. gossweileri* on rocks 7 miles S.E. of Vila Nova de Seles, but none was in flower then. Copious notes were taken on the spot, photographs secured, and plants collected. When one of these plants flowered in my gardens in 1961, the description was completed.

In the wild state, plants form thickets sometimes several yards across; stems average 1—1½ m. in length, and are branched at ground level, not higher up. An outstanding character is the divaricately branched inflorescence with almost horizontal racemes with subsecund flowers.

A. gossweileri grows in numbers on several rocky hills near Vila Nova de Seles, and also near Amboiva about 35 miles to the east. Further south, plants were found near Bocoio about 50 miles east of Lobito, c. 12° 30′ S., 14° 08′ E., alt. c. 2,800 ft.

A. gossweileri appears to be nearest allied to *A. palmiformis* Bak. near Sa da Bandeira in Huila Province, but it differs chiefly in having a more branched inflorescence with oblique racemes and subsecund flowers. In *A. palmiformis* the inflorescence is only 1—2-branched, the racemes being erect and twice as long.

Description: A shrub forming thickets, with stems averaging 1—1½ m. long, 3—4 cm. diam., branched from base (not higher), ascending or divergent, the apical 10—20 cm. subdensely foliate.

Leaves about 16, rosulate at apex of stem, averaging 30 cm. long, 5 cm. broad at base and gradually attenuate, spreading to slightly recurved; *upper surface* canaliculate, green, mostly without spots or markings; *lower surface* green, rounded; *margins* armed with deltoid teeth up to 3—4 mm. long, 15 mm. apart.

Inflorescence a divaricately 6—8-branched panicle averaging 40 cm. tall.

Peduncle basally flattened and 10—12 mm. broad, divaricately branched well below the middle, the branches spreading to almost horizontal.

Racemes 10—15 cm. long, 5—6 cm. broad, the terminal the longest, the flowers subsecund, buds grey-green tipped, open flowers scarlet.

Bracts ovate-acute, 3 mm. long, 2 mm. broad, thin subscarious, 3—5-nerved.

Pedicels 10 mm. long.

Perianth scarlet, paler at mouth, 30 mm. long, basally slightly rounded, 6 mm. diam. across the ovary, very slightly narrowed above the ovary, thence very slightly enlarging to the throat, the mouth trigonal; *outer segments* free for 10—12 mm., obscurely 3-nerved, paler at margins, the apices subacute, slightly spreading; *inner segments* broader than the outer, with 3 crowded nerves forming a scarlet keel, the apices brownish, more obtuse and more spreading.

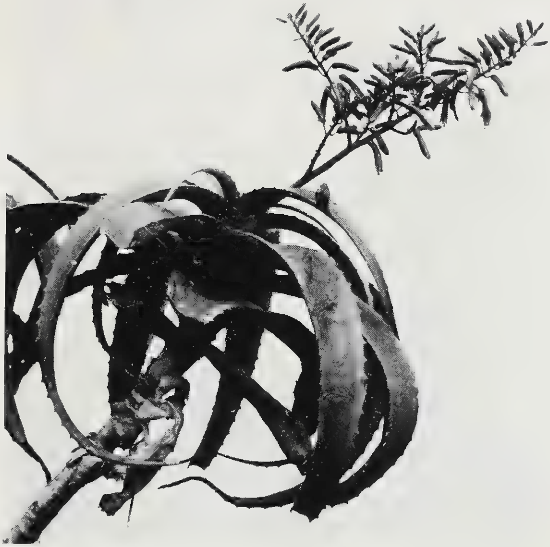

Fig. 1.

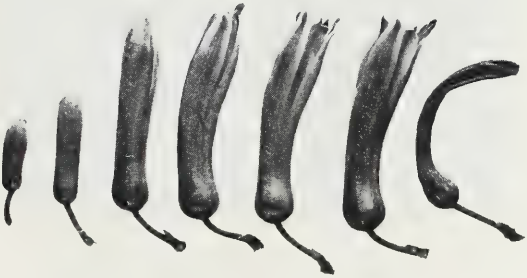

Fig. 2.

Plate V. *Aloe gossweileri* Reynolds.

Fig. 1.—Flowering stem, × 1/6 approx.

Fig. 2.—Flowers 1/1 from bud to post-pollination stage.

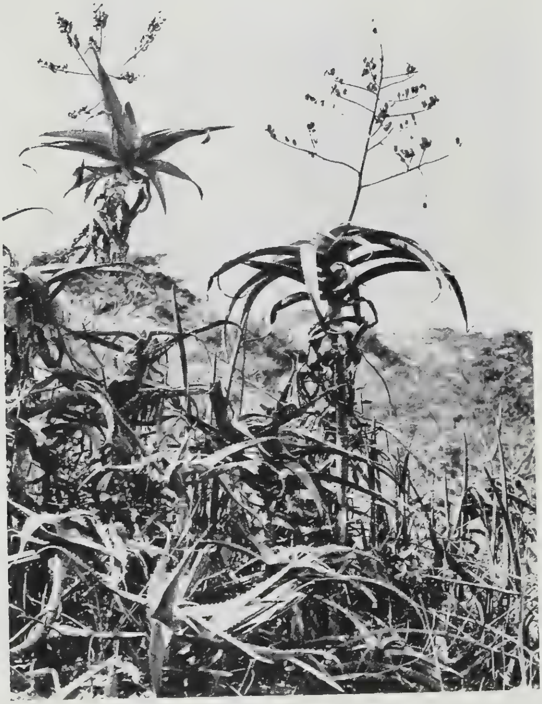

Plate VI. *Aloe gossweileri* Reynolds.

Plants × 1/10 approx., 7 miles S.E. of Vila Nova de Seles, Cuanza Sul, Benguela Prov., Angola. Capsules dehisced and very dry, July 1959.

Filaments pale lemon, the 3 inner narrower and lengthening before the 3 outer, with their *anthers* in turn exserted 1—2 mm. *Stigma* at length exserted 2—3 mm.

Ovary very pale brown, 4 mm. long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diam.

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